

Ernie Koepf
256 Figueroa Street #1
Monterey, Ca, 903940

March 10, 2006

Blue Ribbon Task Force
Chairman Phil Isenberg,

The Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fisheries represents a broad cross section of commercial and recreational fishers, organizations and port districts in the coastal communities of San Mateo, Santa Cruz, Monterey and San Luis Obispo counties. Our organization was formed to participate collectively in discussions at the county, state and federal levels. We seek to present the linkage between a healthy and sustainable fishery, marine conservation policy and the economic vitality of the coastal communities that we serve. Among our members, associates and supporters are the recognized community leaders in this common purpose. They are the men and women who speak before the civic councils, the harbor districts and the State and federal marine advisory boards. These leaders speak for the 200,000 individuals who comprise the workforce responsible for the \$5 billion dollars that is generated into the economy as a result of seafood products, fishing, recreation and tourism.

In the winter of 2005, it was with great pride that the Alliance watched the Central Region Stakeholder Group participate in the process of crafting proposals for consideration by the Blue Ribbon Task Force. The coalitions that formed between the various stakeholders produced arrays of reserves that followed the science guidelines faithfully as they struck a balance between marine protections and shared sacrifice. The proposals were analyzed by the Science Advisory Team and then sent back for revision, and then re-submitted for further SAT review after the revisions were made. The process, as originally envisioned by Secretary of Resources Mike Chrisman and the MLPA-I team, was working according to plan. A foundation built upon inclusion was seemingly headed for a new milestone in marine policy as environmentalists, recreational divers, recreational fishermen, commercial fishermen, animal protectionists and the general public sat at the table and argued, agreed, and compromised. Several CRSG proposals emerged for consideration by the Blue Ribbon Task Force.

The first cracks in the foundation appeared quite early in the process and then widened as Package 1 began to emerge as the proposal that best fit the science guidelines. Although Package 1 conformed and satisfied the goals, objectives and guidelines best, it wasn't getting any traction with the SAT and the BRTF. In a bold maneuver, the BRTF brought forth an internal product, a proposal of their own crafting, Proposal S, an array of reserves from the Science Advisory Team. The SAT seemed oblivious to the fact that by submitting Proposal S, they had jeopardized the entire MLPA Initiative. It was stunning and hubristic, delivering the smoking gun that all the critics had anticipated from the very beginning. Critics now call Proposal S, "The Resource Legacy Foundation Proposal".

The Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fisheries respectfully requests the Blue Ribbon Task Force to only consider those proposals that were crafted through long work by the Central Region Stakeholder Group. Specifically, we ask that you endorse and forward Package 1 for consideration by the Fish and Game Commission. This array of reserves satisfies the goals, objectives and guidelines, it meets the criterion to establish the percents of different habitats set aside for protection, and at the same time, Package 1 does not create excessive and unnecessary socio-economic loss. That balance alone should recommend it's suitability for what will forever be the future along the California coast.

Thank you,

Ernie Koepf

Supporting Associations and Organizations

Port San Luis Harbor District

City of Morro Bay Harbor

City of Monterey Harbor

Santa Cruz Port District

San Mateo County Harbor District

Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations

Port San Luis Commercial Fishermen's Association

Santa Cruz Commercial Fishermen's Association

Moss Landing Fishermen's Marketing Association

Western Fishboat Owner's Association

Ventura County Commercial Fishermen's Association

Federation of Independent Seafood Harvesters

Golden Gate Fishermen's Association